

## KENYA ANNOUNCES NEW CONSTITUTION

*The Kenyan Minister for Justice, Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs, Mutula Kilonzo is available for media interviews regarding Kenya's new draft constitution. If interested, please contact [akolodzinski@clsdc.com](mailto:akolodzinski@clsdc.com) or 202-777-3518.*

**A New Beginning for Kenya** – The draft constitution provides a new beginning for the Kenyan people. Kenyan Ambassador to the United States Peter Ogego says, "the draft marks a transformational point in our country's democratic history. We are on the path to developing a constitution that will create a stronger more united Kenya."

**The Constitution Aims to Tackle Corruption** – Welcomed by Transparency International, the proposed changes aim to create a decentralized government to curb corruption. "The draft constitution has positive elements that would reduce opportunities of corruption and abuse of power that exist today," said Job Ogonda, executive director, Transparency International Kenya

**Proposed Changes to the Constitution** – Kenya's Committee of Experts has developed a comprehensive constitutional draft that aims at transforming Kenya's government by:

- Forming the position of Executive Prime Minister
- Establishing a two chamber parliament – the senate and the national assembly
- Constraining executive power through a decentralized government
- Introducing regional and county governments
- Reforming the election process to avoid future electoral disputes

**Media Availability** – As the Minister for Justice, Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs, the Honorable Mutula Kilonzo, is the Minister responsible for overseeing this process. A previous lawyer for the High Court of Kenya and author of the pre-trial and pre-hearing procedures in Kenya, the Honorable Kilonzo is well versed in Kenya's judicial system and the constitutional reform process.

*This material is distributed by Chlopak, Leonard, Schechter & Associates on behalf of the Office of the President of the Republic of Kenya. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.*

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**Embassy of Kenya  
Washington, D.C.**

Statement from Ambassador H.E. Peter Ogego on the Release of New Kenyan Constitution:

"Yesterday, Kenya's Committee of Experts, the body charged with steering Kenya's constitutional review, released a draft of the new Kenyan Constitution. This represents a major landmark on Kenya's path of political and constitutional reform, a process that was initiated after the 2007 election violence.

The new constitution is based on ten cardinal principles that will pave the way for a united and more democratic Kenya. Among these principles are: sharing of executive power among the president and prime minister, a decentralized government with constraints on executive power, a new two chamber parliament and a Supreme Court.

The Committee of Experts also proposes changes to the electoral process to avoid election disputes in the future.

President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga are grateful to the Committee of Experts for their hard work. The release of this Constitution marks a new beginning for Kenya and an important opportunity for all Kenyans to participate in transforming their country in a democratic and transparent manner. There now follows a period of public consultation on the document with the final draft to be voted on by the Kenyan people in a referendum there after."

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